(a) whether the Government propose to set up a open trade centre somewhere in the country on the lines of Hong Kong; and

(b) if so, the location and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The Advisory Committee constituted to examine the desirability of setting up a Free Port in India has recommended its establishment in Goa. The Committee has also suggested Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu as an appropriate choice for a subsequent Free Port on the east Coast.

[*Translation*]

Training Exercises by Armed Forces

5960. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the training exercises in bombarding the villages adjoining to the training areas are got vacated resulting in heavy losses of lives and property to the villagers:

(b) if so, whether any compensation is provided to them during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance every year in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The villages falling within the boundaries of Field Firing Ranges are vacated during practice firing. The villages adjoining a Field Firing Range or outside it are not required to be vacated. Because of safety precuations taken prior to and during the practice firing, no heavy loss of life or property of the villagers have been reported except stray cases of accidental death or damage.

(b) and (c). The residents of the affected villages are paid compensation for the period of vacation of the Villages by them at the rates prescribed by the State Governments.

The amounts of compensation paid during the last 3 years are as under:-

1988-89 .. Rs. 52,73,972

1989-90 .. Rs. 99,56,845

1990-91 .. Rs. 22,88,546

(d) and (e). Compensation is already being paid whenever villages are vacated on account of practice firing. This arrangement will continue.

[*English*]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of onion

5961. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lift the restrictions on the export of onion;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be lifted; and